

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“An Exhortation for Unity”

Philippians 2:1-4

Intro: After exhorting believers *to stand firm in one spirit, and with one mind to strive together for the faith of the gospel* of Christ (1:27); Paul advances this concept in chapter 2 with *an exhortation for believers to be unified*. He issues an appeal in verses 1-2 for unity among the brethren, which he explains is a Christ-like quality that is available to those who will exercise *true humility of mind* and a *concern for the needs of others* (vv. 3-4).

I. The Incentive for Unity: *Four Spiritual Realities* 2:1

- A. Encouragement in Christ
 - B. *Consolation Provided by His Love*
- C. Fellowship in the Holy Spirit
 - D. *Affection and Compassion*

II. The Appeal for Unity: *Four Directives* 2:2

- A. Paul’s appeal for *unity*—“*make my joy complete by . . .*”
- B. Paul’s advancement of unity (see John 17:21)
 - 1. *Be of one mind*
 - 2. *Be of one love*
 - 3. *Be of one spirit*
 - 4. *Be of one purpose*



Paul Appeals for Unity

III. The Application of Unity: *Based on True Humility* 2:3-4

- A. **Selfish ambition** (cf. v. 17) versus *true humility of mind* (v. 3)
- B. **Self interests** versus *a concern for the needs of others* (v. 4)

Applications

1. Believers are exhorted to *adopt the mind of Christ*, and to *strive together harmoniously for the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*.
2. Believers are to do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but *with humility of mind* we are to consider the needs of others as more important than our own.
3. May we *follow the example Christ* by going out of our way to meet the needs of others!

Memory verse: “*For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” *Philippians 1:21*